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INFORMATION REPORT

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

Garrison Training

Maneuvers

2. In the fall of 1950, the 39th Guards Rifle Motorized Division (the 117th Guards Rifle Regiment was a subordinate unit) went on a three day problem in the vicinity of Ohrdruf. With the exception of the Regimental NCO School which moved on foot, all units of my regiment were transported in trucks, about 20 men to a truck. To the best of my recollection, we used ZIS, Studebakers and Dodges, but I can't remember the number. The move from Meiningen to Ohrdruf, a distance of about 60 kilometers, took about four hours. I don't remember any accidents or breakdowns during the move. I saw three SU guns (SP Artillery), some 45 mm AT guns, and 57 mm AT guns. I don't believe that any weapons or equipment were left behind, except the material belonging to the small guard detachment which remained in the regimental compound in Meiningen.

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3. When we arrived at Sandraf, the troops scattered in the forest and began to dig foxholes, trenches and camouflage their positions. This exercise lasted for two days of the problem. Food and water was brought by field kitchens and water trailers; we ate from mess kits. I don't believe that supply points of any size were established because it was such a short problem. The men slept in tents, two to a tent. To the best of my knowledge, all units of the 39th Rifle Division participated in the problem, including personnel from the 112th and the 120th Rifle Regiments. I don't know if the units pooled weapons.
4. The problem, which consisted of an attack on the artillery range, began at 0400 hours and lasted until late afternoon. We covered a distance of about 15 kilometers. During the attack, troops came to a stream about 10 meters wide. They didn't use the bridge which was already there, but crossed on a wooden one erected by our engineers. I think that it took them about two hours to construct this bridge. It was strong enough to support the passage of the entire regiment and supply vehicles. During the problem I saw some airplanes, anti-aircraft artillery, anti-tank mortars, engineer and signal troops. Ambulances followed in the wake of the movement and picked up stragglers.
5. I wasn't aware of any unit which was used in defense of the artillery range. The 117th Rifle Regiment was the attacking force. During the attack, service units, including field kitchens, medics and repair shops moved along with the troops. A guard detachment was left at the bivouac area. [REDACTED]
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